

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) ~~The composite material of Claim 1~~ A composite

material comprising:

a matrix phase; and

a coupled fiber reinforcement structure formed of at least one high aspect ratio fiber wherein said coupled fiber reinforcement structure has an aspect ratio of less than ten,

wherein said coupled fiber reinforcement structure comprises a first and second pair of parallel fibers, said first and second pair being coupled orthogonal to each other.

6. (currently amended) The composite material of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 5 wherein said fibers are selected from the group consisting essentially of carbon fiber, glass fiber, and kevlar.

7. (currently amended) The composite material of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 5 wherein said matrix is a thermosettable polymer.

8. (previously presented) The composite material of Claim 7 wherein the matrix material is a selected from the group of epoxy resin, polyester resins, vinyl-ester resins, and phenolic resins.

9. (previously presented) The composite material of Claim 7 wherein the matrix material is a selected from the group of polyimides, bismaleimides, and polybenzimidazoles.

10. (currently amended) The composite material of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 5 wherein said matrix is a thermformable polymer.

11. (previously presented) The composite material of Claim 10 wherein the matrix material is a selected from the group of polycarbonates, polysulphones, polyether-ether-ketone and polyamides.

12. (currently amended) The composite material of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 5 wherein said coupled fiber reinforcement structure has an aspect ratio of less than five.

13. (currently amended) The composite material of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 5 wherein said coupled fiber reinforcement structure has an aspect ratio of about one.

[14-15. (cancelled)]

16. (currently amended) ~~The coupled fiber reinforcement structure of Claim 15~~

A coupled fiber reinforcement structure comprising:

a pair of fibers adjoined by a joint, said joint maintaining the coupled fiber reinforcement structure during a molding process; wherein said coupled fiber reinforcement structure has an aspect ratio of less than ten and comprises a first and second pair of parallel fibers, said first and second pair being coupled orthogonal to each other.

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17. (currently amended) ~~The coupled fiber reinforcement structure of Claim 15~~
Claim 16 wherein said fibers are selected from the group consisting essentially of carbon fiber, glass fiber, and kevlar.

18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) ~~The coupled fiber reinforcement structure of Claim 1~~
composite material of Claim 5, wherein the high aspect ratio fiber has a length in the range of 0.2 to 0.8 millimeters.

20. (currently amended) ~~The coupled fiber reinforcement structure~~ composite material of claim 19, wherein the high aspect ratio fiber has a diameter in the range of five to twenty micrometers.